Embrace the Future: Be Intentional.



THE PALM LEAF

The Church of the Palms, UCC 14808 North Boswell Boulevard Sun City, Arizona

A LETTER FROM PAUL



Life is precious; life is short; be intentional.

"The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17.

The marks of Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality. From dust we have come and to dust we shall return.

I'm reminded of a children's moment years ago. The pastor asked the kids, "If you are nice to your family, will that get you into heaven?" "No!" came the answer loud and clear. "If you come to church every Sunday, will that get you into heaven?" "No!" rang out loud and clear. "Well, how do you get into heaven?" One boy thought for a moment and blurted out, "First, you gotta get dead!" And everyone laughed.

But, when you think about it, he was correct. The one prerequisite for resurrection is death. And literal death is not all there is to death! We experience loss and brokenness all the time. Those are deaths. Loss and brokenness creep into our days – whether it is the loss of a dream or the brokenness of **MARCH 2024**

our lack of ability to function a certain way mentally or physically! The variety of deaths we experience can entomb us long before we literally turn into ashes.

Lent is the season that invites us to stop and consider the places and spaces in our lives that are, for all the world, dead. What is dead within us? What is dead in our relationships, our church, our society? To experience dead places can break our hearts. But the psalmist reminds us that it is precisely the very condition of heartbrokenness where God is present.

When we open our eyes to the ways the power of death has hold over us, and feel sorrow and contrition, God meets us there and can begin to ready us for the promised new life. Where there is God, there is resurrection!

Be the reason someone feels resurrection! Be the reason someone feels welcomed, seen, heard, valued, loved, and supported! Bring love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control into situations and share resurrection.

Shalom, Paul

Notes from your Executive Board at The Church of the Palms





As I continue my involvement with social justice activism, I continue to be dismayed by the hatred that seems to be rampant at times. It seems to be expressed openly in all sorts of ways.

On the wall in my home office, I have a quote by Nelson Mandela that says, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

We used to have a neighbor who had a lot of hate symbols in his yard, including a Confederate flag. I used to feel lots of anger when passing his home. However, I eventually remembered the words of Jesus; to love our enemies. I also remembered the parable of the Good Samaritan where a person's neighbor in need of his help was someone who in that culture hated him because of his different religion, race, and various other differences. I came to realize that both of those teachings may have applied here. Therefore, I began a routine of praying for that person as I passed by his house. I also prayed for myself to have compassion instead of hateful anger.

Pastor Paul recently expressed our theme for the year of Intentionality. As I thought about that, I continued to observe the hatred that seems to abound everywhere. I wondered, "Can intentional love really win?" My conclusion was, yes – love does win if we are intentional about it. Without intentionality, I realized that I may get so upset with hate mongers that I forget the correct response to them is to love them.

I do not want to suggest that this is an effortless process for me. It is so easy to get caught up fruitlessly arguing with hateful people that I sometimes forget that loving them is a stronger response to their hatred than arguing with them. I do not know about you. However, I will attempt to be intentional about loving others.

Intentional love can conquer barriers that we might see. It fills the gap between political, religious, racial, and lifestyle differences. Intentional love is a beautiful concept that encourages us to choose love over hate, understanding over judgment, and kindness over cruelty. I hope to be intentional about love for I really do believe that Love Wins.

Dr. Phil Ladd, Chair of the Executive Board



God is Still Speaking



Doing Grief™ Community Healing Project Interfaith Chapel for Healing at The Church of the Palms

Healing Project programs are for **EVERYONE** grievers, healers, and caregivers – because we all experience different types of loss throughout our lives: death, broken relationships, illness, aging, a loss of meaning, hope, purpose, and more. Join us for any or all of our spring programs! Grab a flyer or Sign up outside the Chapel. RSVP FOUR WAYS:

 (1) The Church of the Palms/HP Sign-up Book,
 (2) Email Connect@DoingGrief.com,
 (3) Call 602-315-8480 or (4) Online RSVP form on "Healing Project" page at DoingGrief.com

MOURNING LIGHT CAFÉ – SHEA DARIAN & ANDREW DARIAN: 2nd & 4th Fridays (beginning March 22nd-May 24th), 9-10:30a. For grievers, professional healers, and caregivers. Come to connect, learn more about the grieving process, share experiences, gain support. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments served. Call Shea at 602-315-8480.

STORY CIRCLE SMALL GROUP – REV. SUSAN PRINCEHOUSE: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (April-May) 2-3:30p. Join The Church of the Palms member, Susan Princehouse for a community-building experience to share personal stories on themes of life, death, grief, healing, loss, and change. Limit is Eight. Sign up to save your spot. Call or Email Susan at 541-490-9449 or SusanPrincehouse@gmail.com.

HEALING CIRCLES – SHEA DARIAN, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Monthly confidential spiritual direction small groups (Four to five participants) to engage in a contemplative speaking/listening process with respect, compassion and acceptance. Times & days vary; registration required. Call Shea at 602.315.8480 for more information.

*THE HEALING PROJECT NEEDS YOU! Please volunteer your time and talents to the Healing Project. We have special needs in the following areas: publicity, marketing, sewing, window panels for the chapel, and transportation for church members who need a ride to attend a program. Opportunities to train as a Story Circle facilitator are also available. Contact Shea Darian at 602.315.8480 or Connect@DoingGrief.com.

DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS



The center has a need for breakfast items for their before-school program. They could use frozen waffles and burritos, mini bagels and

Fruit Rollups. muffins, Pop Tarts or Many children come to the center in the morning hungry, so these items could really Non-food help. items such as bowls, spoons and cups would also be welcome gifts. While waiting to be transported to school the children work with craft kits such as Perler 80-11094 Fuse Bead Sets or Perler Beads Assorted Small and Large Pegboards which are used to make fun items like key rings or jewelry. These items are available on Amazon and at other retailers. Eight students are scheduled to graduate on February 21st with their high school diplomas, which is just one of programs for adults at the center. the Clothing, household items and cleaning supplies are always needed and appreciated! Feel free to reach out to Linda Hofmann with any questions at 623.242.6382. Thanks!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



"Men's Breakfast at George's Cafe (Lakeview). As you can see, there is room for more! We meet the first and third Tuesdays at 9:00 am. We just converse together and have a good time."

"CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM, 'PROJECT 2025' AND FURTHER THREATS TO OUR DEMOCRACY"



Saturday, March 16th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in King Hall, Kay Klinkenborg will present and facilitate a class at The Church of the Palms that is open to the public. Core information she presented in September of 2023 will be enhanced and new information released about "Project 2025:" A designed plan by The Heritage Foundation to implement if Trump is elected to the presidency for a second time. If Trump is not elected, this group has a contingency

plan to disrupt our governing structure of the Constitution. Additional Christian nationalist groups will be discussed. Two-hours are planned because this is a vital topic for all citizens and churches. The movement is to make Christianity a national religion among other threats to our democracy and redesign our governing structure as a nation. Group discussion time is part of this class. Continental breakfast is provided and there will be a refreshment break in the class. If you attended the first class, there will additional information about Christian nationalism and the new information about "Project 2025." There will be a sign-up sheet in Narthex for handouts and food preparation. Call Kay at 816-377-2318 for questions.

ARE YOU A NIGHT OWL?



Maybe you are a morning dove or have a Monday afternoon open. IHELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Housing Program) at

The Church of the Palms needs afternoon and monitors for overnight the summer. Over night time slots are Monday evenings 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. or Tuesday mornings 3:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. The IHELP quests are usually weary and sleep soundly during these hours. At the most there are 12 quests. The Church of the Palms membership and staying awake are requirements. You must obtain State of Arizona Level One a Fingerprint Clearance Card, which requires a bit of paperwork. The costs associated will be paid by The Church of the Palms.

As summer approaches the unsheltered prefer to be in an air conditioned space. The Church of the Palms opens its doors to King Hall at 4:00 p.m. Mondays throughout the year and 1:00 p.m. in the summer beginning in May or June depending on the temperatures. Cold water, lemonade, and snacks are provided. This is a more active time. Perhaps this fits your schedule.

In October we celebrate five years of providing a safe overnight shelter every Monday, three meals, and an extravagant welcome. We work with Lutheran Social Services case managers and our partner churches in the West Valley. If you are more information, interested in contact 608-838-3575 Nancy Mueller at Claiborne John at 717-487-6197 Max Klinkenborg at 816-3777-4618.

A message from...

SUN CITY POSSE Serving the Sun City Community Since 1973

The Sun City Posse is holding its annual Open House on Saturday, March 30th from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Posse Headquarters, 10861 Sunland Drive. This is an opportunity to tour our facility and view demonstrations Posse equipment. of The MCSO helicopter will be on display. The Sun City Fire department will also be on site with equipment and paramedics. May Mobility will display an autonomous vehicle. All Sun City residents and guests are welcome to this free event. Join us for a complimentary ice cream and popcorn, participate to win a and learn how the Posse prize, serves your community. The Loan mountain Band perform will in the Posse auditorium. Thank you for you assistance, Captain Sarah Davis, Commander

The LBGTQ+ Ministry Team is excited to bring you some upcoming opportunities to be get involved in our local LGBTQ+ community!



The Rainbows Festival is on Saturday, March 23rd and Sunday, March 24th from 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.! Sign-up sheets for volunteer shifts for our booth started Sunday, February 18th!

The annual Rainbows Festival & Street Fair is a celebration of the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. The event is located in historic Heritage Square Park in Downtown Phoenix. Each year, the Rainbows Festival draws a crowd of over 25,000 friends, families, and allies. Rainbows Festival is the 2nd largest event in the state of Arizona, LGBTQ+ only 2nd to the Phoenix Pride Festival. It is a free event open to the public that hosts over 150 exhibitors and sponsors throughout the two-day event and has two stages filled with entertainment throughout the weekend.

For more information on the Rainbows Festival, please reach out to Jessica Hermann.

Each month in the Palm Leaf, we will feature a bite-sized learning opportunity to LGBTQ+ education journey! continue our This opportunity can include a learning organization highlight of an that we with, TV/Movie/Book love to а partner recommendation, current event update, etc.

Learning Opportunity – March 2024 Book Recommendation: Gay Like Me: A Father Writes to His Son by Richie Jackson. Gay Like Me is a celebration of gay identity and parenting, and a powerful warning for his son, other gay men and the world. Jackson looks back at his own journey as a gay man coming of age through decades of political and cultural turmoil.

REMINDER! The next LGBTQ+ Ministry Team meeting is Monday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m. Please contact Georgia Feiste if you are interested in joining! -Jessica R. Hermann Helping Homeless Kids and Saving the Environment: The Church of the Palms Shows the Way...



The Social Justice Leadership Team has combined forces with the Homeless Ministry and the Creation Justice Ministry to help homeless kids by providing them with reusable water bottles

which will also help protect our environment.

For the last several years our church has provided bottled water for kids attending Children's First Academy (a school for homeless kids near downtown Phoenix). The water is provided to kids as they ride the bus to and from school in the hot months of the year. This year we will be providing reusable water bottles which the school can provide for students. The school has installed drinking fountains (like the one near our King Hall entrance) which have a spout to refill hopefully reduce water bottles and or eliminate the need for plastic water bottles which used once discarded. are and Inexpensive eight and twelve ounce reusable water/juice bottles can be purchased at Walmart or Target stores. We will be collecting these reusable water/juice bottles during the months of March and April. Please consider picking up a package of these bottles and bringing them to the Donations

Area near the Narthex during March. Or, if you wish to make a donation to support this effort, place cash or check in a church envelope and mark it HELP KIDS & SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT. Thank you!





The Church of the Palms

Happy March! As spring approaches I thought I'd toss out a couple of ideas because, we know what comes after spring, right? Ugh!! Summer!



CREATION JUSTICE CHURCHES

One of the big ticket items for cost reduction is solar panels. Before embarking on it, maybe chat with your homeowners agent or service department. If you OWN the solar panels, find out if you need to either up your coverage or add an amendment to cover them. If there's a leak in your roof, you'll be responsible for the cost to remove them to fix the roof. If you LEASE/RENT the panels, you may need the owner to remove them before the leak can be fixed. It's info good to know before an incident occurs. Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to dissuade you, I just want you to be aware of what your responsibilities are.

In the "less expensive" arena, here's a few things you can consider:

- Warmer weather = more showers? Try the old fashioned bar soaps/shampoos/conditioners and eliminate the plastic bottles! (We'll look more in depth at plastics in a later issue).
- Warmer weather = more laundry? There's companies out there that use tablets or strips, avoiding plastic jugs. I have my favorites and would be happy to chat, just keep in mind that The Church of the Palms does not make recommendations.

I heard from a few people who told me what they do to help out Gods Creation. Nancy & Richard don't use throwaway products. Tableware, cloth napkins, glasses. They also keep a bucket in the shower and fill it until the water heats up. Then it's used to water plants! What a great idea!

And John tells me they have solar panels, artificial grass, eliminated high water trees & plants, no more water bottles, installed ceiling fans and LED lights!

Want to highlight your efforts? Please email me at kabestik1@gmail.com with the info, or any other questions/ideas you may have. Please put "Creation Justice" in the subject line.

Be the Light, Shari K

How can dogs help change the world?



In April, Life Long Learning will offer a book study of *A Man in the Dog Park* written by Professor Cathy A. Small with Jason Kordosky, and Ross Moore. This book grew from the personal relationship that Small developed over several years with Ross, a Veteran and homeless man for over three decades. The book's research is based on an extensive number of interviews with a variety of homeless people, including day laborers, people

living in cars, and the various other types of homelessness that Small and Korosky find. By making many of their relationships with the homeless personal, each person's struggle with their situation becomes an individual struggle. The book also clearly describes the obstacles the homeless face. Ray Larson will lead a discussion Wednesdays April 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th. The class will be available as hybrid. Click <u>Here</u> to access our Bridges-2-Learning page to join the meeting via Zoom. The book may also be borrowed through Hoopla as an audiobook. Hoopla is a free service application available through the Maricopa county library district and is listed under their eMedia tab. It is also available as a Kindle eBook or a hard cover copy on Amazon.com. Although reading the book for the class is not required, it is encouraged. If you need more information or help getting a copy of the book, contact Martin Meadows at mtmeadows79@gmail.com.

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine... "

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five.

Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to OGHS.

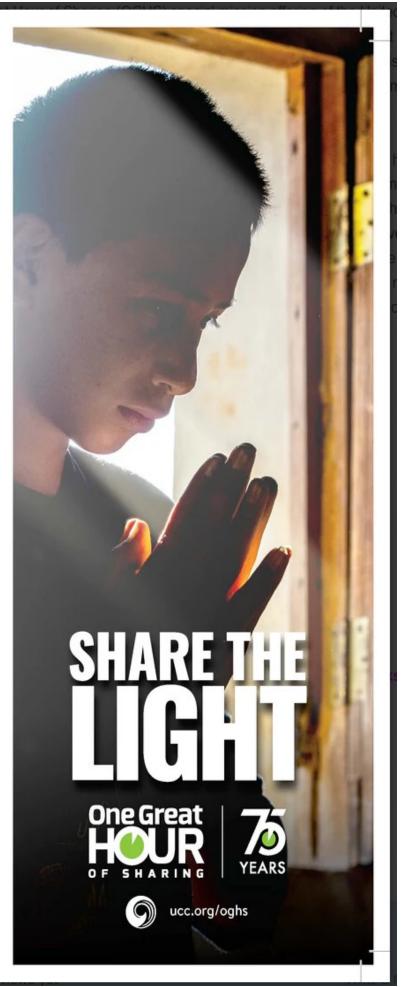
Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously.

Share the light.



SCS24B

Photo: @disciplephoto



God is Still Speaking

WOMEN OF COURAGE

Songs and storytelling inspired by 11 extraordinary women

Eleanor Roosevelt, delegate to the United Nations General Assembly

Music by Mary Lou Prince Words by Patty Christiena Willis Performed by the Quad City Interfaith Choir

FREE CONCERT Sunday March 3rd, 3:00 p.m. (In the Sanctuary) The Church of the Palms 14808 N Boswell Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85351

God is Still Speaking

The Church of the Palms

Women of Courage: The Unveiling of a Monument of Words and Song

A friend has dedicated a wall of her living room to her heroes. Each time she walks by, she feels infused by their courage. Wanting to honor and remember the courage of their own heroes, composer Mary Lou Prince and lyricist Patty Willis have created a monument of words and song. These songs honor women, known and unknown, who have changed the world through their courageous lives.

Each woman encountered seemingly insurmountable difficulties, and each used her unique talents to transform the world into which she was born. Some of our women of courage are well known. At 74 years of age, Eleanor Roosevelt is traveling through the Tennessee countryside, a \$25,000 bounty on her head by the KKK, a loaded gun between her and the 71-year-old woman driving the car through the backwoods to the Highlander School to teach a workshop on civil disobedience. The FBI will not protect her. She has a commitment to keep.

Etty Hillesum, a Jew, and brilliant Russian scholar living in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam is the beating heart of the barracks of Westerbork where Jews await transport to Auschwitz. She accompanies a reality she cannot change and dares to feel joy at lupines blooming in a muddy field.

Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farmworkers and mother of eleven children, inspired people to believe in themselves. We can speak truth to power. We can make a difference. "Sí, se puede." "Yes, we can."

Viola Jimulla, at the death of her husband in 1940, became the chieftess of the Yavapai people. She said, "I had to help my people in whatever they needed." Her firm but benevolent rule brought new industry and dignity to her tribe.

Recy Taylor, a young married black woman, gang raped as she returns home from a church service one evening in rural Alabama, will not keep the silence demanded by her violators. She continued to demand justice. Her courage inspired her advocate, Rosa Parks, and Recy's story was on her mind when she would not move to the back of the bus. In 2012, she finally received an apology from the state of Alabama and her town Abbeville.

Mine Okubo, a gifted painter interned at Topaz in central Utah when American citizens of Japanese ancestry were rounded up during World War II, uses her gifts to express the loss and daily cruelty of a dark time of our American past. She bids us not forget and not repeat.

The authors hope that these songs will inspire listeners to courageous acts that are waiting to be born.

Performances of work by Patty Willis and Mary Lou Prince have been featured at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, International Theater Festivals in Kanazawa, Kyoto and Tokyo Japan and New York City, The Parliament of World Religions, *Women by Music Festival* at Mississippi University for Women, *Nadia Boulanger and her Students Festival* at the University of Arizona, BBC Radio Scotland and NHK Television Japan. For more information, please contact Mary Lou Prince at <u>musicdirectorgranitepeakuu@gmail.com</u>

March 1-15

Friday, 1-OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 p.m. Special I-HELP (KH)

Saturday, 2 10:00 a.m. Re-entry Simulation (KH) Led by Nancy Nonini 4:00 p.m. Special I-HELP (KH)

Sunday, 3 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (SA) 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour (KH) 3:00 p.m. Women of Courage Concert (SA)

Monday, 4

10:00 a.m. Lifelong Learning Mtg (BR/HY) 11:00 a.m. Special Board Mtg (BR) 4:00 p.m. I-HELP (KH)

Tuesday, 5

9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ George's (OS) 10:00 a.m. Solidarity with Dreamers in Israel and Palestine Class (BR) Led by Beth Moore

<u>Wednesday, 6</u>

9:00 a.m. Needles & Pins Craft Group (BR)

10:00 a.m. VEC Mtg (NA)

10:00 a.m. Living the Questions Class (KH) Led by David Klingensmith

<u>Thursday, 7</u>

10:00 a.m. Cosmic Christians (BR/HY) 2:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR) 3:00 p.m. Inspirit Bible Study (RC/HY)

Friday, 8-OFFICE CLOSED

12:00 p.m. Criminal Justice Mtg (BR/HY) 1:00 p.m. Social Justice Mtg (BR/HY)

Saturday, 9 Happy Saturday :)

Sunday, 10 7:30 a.m. Shared Conversations (B2L) Led by Mary Hoy 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (SA) 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour (KH)

<u>Monday, 11</u>

LGBTQ+ Mtg (KH) 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. I-HELP (KH)

Tuesday, 12

10:00 a.m. Solidarity with Dreamers in Israel and Palestine Class (BR) Led by Beth Moore 1:00 p.m. Ministry Council Mtg (BR/HY)

Wednesday, 13

9:00 a.m. Needles & Pins Craft Group (BR) 10:00 a.m. Living the Questions Class (KH) Led by David Klingensmith

Thursday, 14

10:00 a.m. Cosmic Christians (BR/HY) 2:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR) 3:00 p.m. Inspirit Bible Study (RC/HY)

Friday, 15-OFFICE CLOSED APRIL PALM LEAF DEADLINE

SA=Sanctuary; B2L=Bridges to Learning; HY=Hybrid; KH=King Hall; BR=Boardroom; OS=Offsite; NA=Narthex; CHP=Chapel; PP=Pastor Paul's Office; MR=Music Room

March 16-31

Saturday, 16

10:00 a.m. Christian Nationalism & Project 2025 (KH) *Led by Kay Klinkenborg* 4:00 p.m. Special I-HELP (KH)

Sunday, 17-HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY!

7:30 a.m. Shared Conversations (B2L)
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR)
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (SA)
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour (KH)

Monday, 18

4:00 p.m. I-HELP (KH)

<u>Tuesday, 19</u> 9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ George's (OS)

Wednesday, 20

9:00 a.m. Needles & Pins Craft Group (BR) 10:00 a.m. Living the Questions Class (KH) Led by David Klingensmith 10:00 a.m. Evangelism & Growth Mtg (NA)

Thursday, 21

9:00 a.m. Care Team Mtg (BR/HY)
10:00 a.m. Cosmic Christians (BR/HY)
2:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR)
3:00 p.m. Inspirit Bible Study (RC/HY)

Friday, 22-OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, 23 11:00 a.m. Joanne Van Cleve Memorial Service (SA)

Sunday, 24

7:30 a.m. Shared Conversations (B2L)
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR)
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (SA)
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour (KH)

Monday, 25 4:00 p.m. I-HELP (KH)

Tuesday, 26 10:00 a.m. Palestinian Issues Class (BR) 10:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive (KH)

Wednesday, 27 9:00 a.m. Needles & Pins Craft Group (BR)

10:00 a.m. Living the Questions Class (KH)

Thursday, 28 10:00 a.m. Cosmic Christians (BR/HY) 2:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR) 3:00 p.m. Inspirit Bible Study (RC/HY) *5:00 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE @ Desert Garden United Church of Christ 18818 N 128th, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Friday, 29-OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, 30 1:00 p.m. Sun City Posse Annual Open House (OS)

EASTER Sunday, 31

7:30 a.m. Shared Conversations (B2L)
*8:00 a.m. Worship outside the Fountain Patio Area
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (MR)
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (SA)
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour (KH)

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